



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5388

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT REQUIRING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE A
VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 27-102*l* of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a
5 veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of
6 veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members.
7 Such unit shall conduct an annual training course for any city or town
8 employee or representative from a regional planning organization
9 designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant to subsection
10 (b) of section 27-135, as amended by this act. The unit shall have a staff
11 of not less than eight men and women, including six service officers,
12 and clerical personnel. The unit head and the service officers shall be
13 veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or veterans who were awarded
14 the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the armed forces.
15 At least one of the service officers shall be a woman having a
16 demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans, who shall be
17 responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective upon the next
18 opening of a service officer position occurring on or after July 1, 2010,
19 at least two of the service officers shall be individuals having bilingual

20 proficiency in English and Spanish, within existing authorized
21 positions. Each service officer shall successfully complete a course in
22 veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of employment
23 and shall be assigned to one of the five congressional districts of the
24 state.

25 Sec. 2. Section 27-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

27 (a) Any city or town, either separately or with one or more other
28 cities and towns, may, by ordinance, establish a local veterans'
29 advisory committee which shall have the responsibility of carrying out
30 locally the duties and purposes of this section and, within their charter
31 powers and as otherwise provided by law, may make available to such
32 local committees the necessary funds to carry out their duties and
33 responsibilities. The committee may [(a)] (1) act as the coordinating
34 agency in all matters concerning veterans and their dependents,
35 coordinating the activities of public and private facilities concerned
36 with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation and adjustment
37 to peacetime living; [(b)] (2) cooperate with all national, state and local
38 governmental and private agencies in securing services and benefits to
39 which a veteran or his dependents may be entitled; [(c)] (3) use the
40 services and facilities of the veterans organizations so far as possible to
41 carry out the purposes of this section; and [(d)] (4) encourage and
42 coordinate vocational training services for veterans.

43 (b) Any city or town that (1) has not established a local veterans'
44 advisory committee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2)
45 does not otherwise provide funding for a veterans' service officer shall
46 designate a city or town employee or a representative from a regional
47 planning organization to serve as a veterans' service contact person in
48 such city or town. Any city or town employee or representative
49 designated as a veterans' service contact person shall carry out the
50 duties described in subsection (a) of this section and shall complete an
51 annual training course conducted by the veterans' advocacy and
52 assistance unit, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-102l, as

54 organization" has the same meaning as in section 4-124i.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2013	27-102l(b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	27-135

VA	<i>Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO C/R</i>	PD
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PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*